

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing a specific access space that specifies a path specific to a user who searches a hyperlink in a hypertext space composed of mutual link relation between one or more hypertexts provided by one or more servers,

comprising:

first means for adding space identification information to specific information for each user associated with the specific access space relative to page information and

managing it in correlation with a reference to the page information;

second means for taking specific information corresponding to requested page information out of the first means and adding it to the page information; and

third means for replacing the reference included in the page information with the space identification information.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing a specific access space that specifies a path specific to a user who searches a hyperlink in a hypertext space composed of mutual link relation between one or more hypertexts provided by one or more servers,

comprising:

first means for adding space identification information to specific information for each user associated with the specific access space relative to page information and managing it in correlation with a reference to the page information;

second means for taking specific information corresponding to requested page information out of the first means and adding it to the page information;

third means for replacing the reference included in the page information with the space identification information; and

fourth means for registering the specific information relative to the page information at the first means.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing a specific access space that specifies a path specific to a user who searches a hyperlink in a hypertext space composed of mutual link relation between one or more hypertexts provided by one or more servers, comprising:

a space specific information management unit that adds space identification information to specific information for each user associated with the specific access space relative to page information and manages in correlation with a reference to the page information;

an analysis unit that interprets a page request from at the user and extracts a reference of requested page information and the space identification information;

a page information request unit that requests the page information referred to by the reference extracted by the analysis unit to a server which provides the hypertext;

a page information reception unit that receives the page information from the server which provides the hypertext;

a specific information addition unit that takes the specific information out of the space specific information management unit corresponding to the space identification information extracted by the analysis unit and adds the specific information of the received page information to the page information; and

a space identification information addition unit that replaces the reference included in the received page information with the corresponding space identification information,

wherein page information synthesized by the specific information addition unit and the space identification information addition unit is provided to the user instead of an original page information referred to by a reference specified by the user.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing a specific access space that specifies a path specific to a user who searches a hyperlink in a hypertext space composed of mutual link relation between one or more hypertexts provided by one or more servers, comprising:

a space specific information management unit that receives, from a user, specific information for page information that is a constituent of the hypertext and manages it in correlation with a reference to the page information by space identification information;

an analysis unit that interprets a page request from ~~at~~ the user and extracts a reference of the ~~requested-~~page information and the space identification information;

a page information request unit that requests the page information referred to by the reference extracted by the analysis unit to a server which provides the hypertext;

a page information reception unit that receives the requested page information from the server which provides the hypertext;

a specific information addition unit that takes the specific information corresponding to the space identification information extracted by the analysis unit out of the space specific information management unit and adds the specific information to the corresponding received page information; and

a space identification information addition unit that replaces a reference included in the received page information with the corresponding space identification information,

wherein ~~the page information synthesized by the specific information addition unit and the space identification information addition unit is provided to the user instead of an original page information referred to by a reference specified by the user.~~

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing a specific access space that specifies ~~a specific path to the user who searches a hyperlink in a a hypertext space that is in conformance with a purpose of users and wherein a link relation different from an original hypertext space composed of mutual link relation between one or more hypertexts provided by one or more servers is formed~~, comprising:

first means for grouping one or more links that refer to page information and managing the grouped links as link group data; and

second means for applying a requested process to each link included in ~~thea~~ link group requested to be processed.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing a specific access space that specifies ~~a specific path to the user who searches a hyperlink in a a hypertext space that is in conformance with a purpose of users and wherein a link relation different from an original hypertext space composed of mutual link relation between one or more hypertexts provided by one or more servers is formed~~, comprising:

first means for grouping one or more links that refer to a page information and managing the grouped links as a link group data;

second means for applying a requested process to each link included in ~~thea~~ link group requested to be processed; and

third means for registering information relative to the link group at the first means.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing a specific access space that specifies a specific path to ~~thea~~ user who searches a hyperlink in ~~thea~~ hypertext space

composed of mutual link relation between one or more hypertexts provided by one or more servers, comprising:

a space specific information management unit that groups one or more links that refer to page information and manages the grouped links as link group data to which a link group identifier is added;

an analysis unit that interprets a process request from the user and extracts a requested link group identifier and a process to be applied;

a unit that takes the link group data corresponding to the link group identifier extracted by the analysis unit out of the space specific information management unit;

a page information request unit that requests page information referred to by each link included in the extracted link group data to a server which provides the hypertext;

a page information reception unit that receives the page information from the server which provides the hypertext; and

a page information synthesis unit that applies the process extracted by the analysis unit to the whole page information referred to by each link included in the link group to synthesize a virtual page,

wherein information of the virtual page is provided to the user instead of original page information referred to by each link included in the link group specified by the user.

8. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

a unit that receives a user's instruction about registration of contents of the link group data, such as the link groups, each link included in each link group, and the process to be applied to each link group or each link included in each link group.

9. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein

the space specific information management unit manages the process to be applied to the link included in the link group in correlation with the link, and the page information synthesis unit applies the process correlated to the link to the page information referred to by the link and then applies the process requested for the link group to the whole link group.

10. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:
a unit that converts the link group or the link correlated to the process to be applied into process component and holds the component.

11. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, further comprising:
a process component display unit that shows the user the link group or the link that has been converted into the process component as a process component icon.

12. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:
a hypertext analysis unit that analyzes the page information referred to by the link selected by the user and registers the link group having the link that is included in the page information.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a specific access space that specifies a path specific to a user who searches a hyperlink in a hypertext space composed of mutual link relation between one or more hypertexts provided by one or more servers, the specific access space being composed of space specific information for each user associated with the specific access space, and each piece of the space specific information being identifiable by means of space identification information and specific information of the user relative to page information being held in correlation with a reference to the page information, comprising the steps of:

(a) interpreting a page request from at the user and extracting at the reference of requested page information and the space identification information;

(b) requesting page information referred to by the reference extracted in step
(a) to a server which provides a hypertext;
(c) receiving the requested page information from the server which provides the
hypertext;
(d) taking specific information for the page information received in step (c) out
of the space specific information corresponding to the space identification information
extracted in step (a), and adding the specific information to the page information;
(e) replacing the reference included in the received page information with the
corresponding space identification information; and
(f) providing the user with page information synthesized in steps (d) and (e)
instead of original page information referred to by a reference specified by the user.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a specific access space that
specifies a path specific to a user who searches a hyperlink in a hypertext space composed of
mutual link relation between one or more hypertexts provided by one or more servers, the
specific access space being composed of space specific information for each user associated
with the specific access space, and each piece of space specific information being identifiable
by means of space identification information and specific information relative to page
information received from the user being held in correlation with a reference to the page
information, comprising the steps of:

(a) interpreting a page request from the user and extracting the reference of
requested-page information and the space identification information;
(b) requesting page information referred to by the reference extracted in step
(a) to a server which provides a hypertext;
(c) receiving the requested page information from the server which provides the
hypertext;

(d) taking specific information for the page information received in step (c) out of the space specific information corresponding to the space identification information extracted in step (a), and adding the specific information to the page information;

(e) replacing the reference included in the received page information with the corresponding space identification information; and

(f) providing the user with the page information synthesized in steps (d) and (e) instead of ~~the~~an original page information referred to by the reference specified by the user.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a specific access space that specifies a path specific to a user who searches a hyperlink in a hypertext space composed of mutual link relation between one or more hypertexts provided by one or more servers, the specific access space being composed of a link group formed by grouping one or more links that refer the page information and assigned a group identifier to be managed as link group data, comprising the steps of:

(a) interpreting a process request from ~~at~~the user and extracting a requested link group identifier and the process to be applied;

(b) requesting the page information referred to by each link included in the link group data corresponding to the link group identifier extracted in step (a) to a server which provides a hypertext;

(c) receiving the requested page information from the server which provides the hypertext;

(d) applying the process extracted in step (a) to ~~the~~a whole page information referred to by each link included in the link group to synthesize a virtual page; and

(e) providing the user with information of the virtual page instead of original page information referred to by ~~at~~the reference specified by the user.